Change in direction of airstrip at Khajuraho

†480. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the world heritage site, Khajuraho is facing severe damage due to the vibrations resulting because of not changing the direction of the air strip in Khajuraho;

whether Government and the public respresentatives have requested for the same;

whether Government is sensitive towards the protection of world heritages; and

(c) by when the direction of the air strip of Khajuraho will be changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As per the technical study conducted by National Physical Laboratory in 1999, no visible cracks were observed due to aircraft movement.

(b) and (c) The instrument approach to land and take off procedures take care of the need to protect the monuments. If any need arises, the procedures can be modified.

(d) In view of the above, there are no plans at present to change the direction of the airstrip.

Induction of military pilots in civil aviation

481. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

whether the Civil Aviation industry is facing shortage of trained civilian pilots and to overcome the shortage, Government proposes to employ foreign pilots;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Government proposes to induct military pilots into civilian industry to overcome the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Civil aviation industry in the country is feeling a shortage of type rated pilots. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of pilots, 944 foreign pilots have been engaged by various airlines operators.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Qualified Pilots from Indian Air Force (IAF) having sufficient flying experience air exempted from appearing in flying tests and certain specified technical examinations of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) required for issue of licence. Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited is also utilising the services of IAF pilots for their operations. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between IAF and Air India on 05.04.2007 and between IAF and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited on 15.02.2008 allowing IAF pilots to join these organisations.

Indentification of location for new airports

482. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(e) whether the Central Government has urged the State Governments to identify the new locations for setting up of new airports;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.